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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 28 Oct 1954

SUBJECT Soviet Air Defense

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE  
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

DATE OF INFORMATION

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The destruction of numerous Soviet aircraft on the ground in June 1941 had considerable impact on Soviet air doctrine and practice. This was especially true with respect to the organization and camouflaging of PVO airdromes. The success of air attack also prompted greater dispersal of air facilities. After this incident, all bomber and ground attack aviation bases were protected by antiaircraft artillery and by fighter aircraft. Many dummy airfields were built in order to divert enemy bombing raids from operational airfields. Also, fighter aviation was ordered to maintain a state of constant readiness; ie, to be airborne within minutes after receiving an air-raid warning.

50X1-HUM

The current SAAF doctrine places great emphasis on the system of air defense consisting of the PVO STRAIT (Air Defense of the Homeland). The PVO system is constantly being improved and all of its components are under continuous training. In SAAF doctrine, the greatest emphasis is placed on the air defense training of fighter aviation of the PVO and frontal air armies. This intensive training is directed towards combat readiness of fighter aviation under all weather conditions and at various altitudes. The current SAAF doctrine stresses that successful defense against enemy bombers will be achieved by a well-organized PVO, highly-trained fighter aviation, antiaircraft artillery, searchlight and other subordinate units, and by efficient coordination between these elements.

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- 2 -

USSR land space has an important place in the Soviet concepts of air defense. It is believed that because of this factor the SAF (including both the PVO and frontal air army fighter units) and other components of PVO STRANY will be able to provide a successful defense against enemy bomber strikes on Soviet territory. During the last half of 1948 and the first half of 1949, USSR land space was divided into numerous zones. In these zones the air defense is now organized with fighter air units, ground observers, radar stations and other technical equipment for the detection of enemy aircraft. The idea is that enemy bombers will be obliged to pass over a number of these PVO zones in order to reach their targets. In the process, it is assured that the enemy bombers will be subjected to repeated attacks by waves of fighter aircraft from both PVO and frontal air armies, as well as by AAA and by guided missiles. The extensive Soviet territory favors the use of this system of air defense. Theoretically, the well-organized PVO STRANY will make it almost impossible for enemy bombers to reach military and industrial targets of importance.

50X1-HUM

SAF commanders have great expectations as to the contributions antiaircraft artillery can make to the air defense system in conjunction with fighter aircraft units. They feel that the AAA can easily fill in the gaps in the air defense system left by the fighter units. According to Soviet doctrine, the AAA will always be employed in the task of repelling enemy bombers; they will function in close coordination with SAF's fighter-interceptor units. The effectiveness of the Soviet AAA increased considerably after World War II. Since 1945, AAA units have been furnished new equipment including radar-locator sights, guided missiles and radar detection devices. It is believed that the new equipment has increased the effectiveness of AAA in the task of combatting enemy bombers.

50X1-HUM

The fighter-interceptor aircraft is regarded in the SAF as the most important instrument of air defense. Fighter units have the primary role in the task of combatting enemy bombers. When approaching enemy aircraft are detected, standing procedure calls for the Soviet fighters to intercept the enemy and engage them before they reach Soviet-controlled territory. According to SAF doctrine, this first contact with the enemy aircraft must be sufficiently far from the territory of the USSR or Soviet-controlled territory to allow SAF fighter-interceptors to make two to three attacks over sea space or over non-Soviet territory. Soviet fighter-interceptors have the mission of combatting enemy aircraft at all altitudes. By contrast to World War II practice, however, post-1945 SAF doctrine has stressed that fighter-interceptors should operate at high altitudes in order best to serve the primary objective of destroying enemy aircraft. In this connection, SAF takes into account past bomber tactics; namely, that when under heavy air attack, the enemy bombers may seek to evade the friendly fighters by using clouds for cover. At this point, the enemy bombers find themselves within the range of the Soviet AAA. The Soviets recognize that in this sort of operation success depends on efficient organization and coordination of the fighter and AAA units. Thus, although secondary to the SAF fighter units, the AAA plays an important role in the Soviet air defense system. The AAA is primarily deployed for the defense of industrial, economic, political and military targets, important highway and railroad junctions, and key bridges.

50X1-HUM

The SAF conducts air maneuvers for the purpose of testing the effectiveness of the training prescribed by the SAF Headquarters annual training program. After the maneuver, each air unit is given an evaluation of its performance by observers from SAF HQS. These observers also note any new problems that come up during maneuvers that have not been worked out in the annual training program. The maneuvers also show the degree of effectiveness of the liaison or coordination between all branches of the services in the air defense system. Special attention is paid to the coordination of fighter units and the AAA of the PVO. During maneuvers, fighter pilots are required to report the number of enemy aircraft "destroyed". Claims are either substantiated or disproved by gun camera film.

50X1-HUM

The type of report showed the estimated number of enemy aircraft in formation, the number of "kills", and indicated that the remainder of the enemy had been turned back. In maneuvers the enemy (or blue) forces never succeeded in reaching the target. The enemy had to pass over several zones of the air defense system. It is the prevailing belief among SAF personnel that the system of numerous zones, defended by fighter aircraft, AAA and

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

other instruments of air defense, make it impossible for enemy aircraft to cross over these defenses and reach important targets deep in the USSR because: (a) the enemy bombers will be under constant attack by fresh waves of fighters as they reach each zone and (b) the enemy bombers will eventually run out of ammunition and will not be able to defend themselves.

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Concepts of the employment of guided missiles had not been fully developed. However, there were great expectations about the future capabilities of guided missiles for the air defense of the country. Lectures on Soviet guided missiles given for the staff officers of the 175th Air Fighter Division.

50X1-HUM

- (a) Offensive missiles (German V-type) for attacks on enemy military, industrial and other rear-zone targets.
- (b) Ground-to-air missiles for air defense purposes.
- (c) Air-to-air missiles (rockets) for use by fighter aircraft of the PVO against enemy aircraft and guided missiles.

Does some sort of liaison exist between the PVO and frontal air armies either at command or at operating levels, so that their forces could be used together in air defense in the event of an emergency? Where does such liaison exist, if any?

The PVO and frontal air armies have separate missions to perform. However, the separateness is evident only in their missions and combat training. This does not mean that there is no liaison between these organizations. It is necessary to point out that the PVO fighter units are always based within the region of the frontal air army or of the air force of the military district. The PVO air units receive logistical support from the commander of the frontal or military district air armies in whose region they are stationed. The commanding general of the PVO air army retains direct control over the PVO units and their operations. In the event of hostilities, the PVO fighter units coordinate their operations with the frontal air fighter units under the general direction of the commander of the frontal air army. The coordination (or liaison) between these organizations is effected at the air army staff level. The commander of a frontal air army always maintains liaison with the commander of a nearby PVO air army. If two fighter air divisions of the PVO are based in the territory of a frontal air army and the PVO air army. Liaison is maintained by various means, depending on the distances involved: Radio, telephone, telegraph, liaison aircraft and personal contact.

50X1-HUM

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